

Introduction

The U.S. Census Bureau produces the Annual Benchmark Report for Services to provide revised national estimates of quarterly revenue for selected service industries. (See the "Coverage" section below for more information on the industries included in the Quarterly Services Survey.) The quarterly revenue estimates shown in this report have been revised in a manner that adjusts them to annual revenue estimates from the 2004 Service Annual Survey. For more information about the revision procedure, see the Revisions to Previously Published Quarterly Revenue Estimates section of this report.

We develop the estimates in this report using data from the Quarterly Services Survey, the Service Annual Survey, and administrative data. For each survey, we mail survey questionnaires to a probability sample of firms in the United States having paid employees. Therefore, the quarterly revenue estimates produced from the QSS do not include revenue from nonemployer firms (i.e., firms without paid employees).

Additional information on the Quarterly Services Survey and Service Annual Survey can be found on the Census Bureau's Web site at <www.census.gov/qss>.

COVERAGE

The estimates in this publication are summarized by kind-of-business classification based on the 1997 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). NAICS groups establishments into industries based on the activities in which they are primarily engaged. This system was developed by the joint efforts of statistical agencies in Canada, Mexico, and the United States. The common industry definitions allow for statistical comparisons by business activity across North America.

Estimates are presented for selected industries in the following NAICS sectors/subsectors:

NAICS sector/subsector	Title
51	Information
54	Professional, scientific, and technical services
56	Administrative and support and waste management and remediation services
622	Hospitals
623	Nursing and residential care facilities

Detailed information about NAICS can be found on the Census Bureau's Web site at <www.census.gov/epcd/www/naics.html>.

REVISIONS TO PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED QUARTERLY REVENUE ESTIMATES

For all industries except hospitals (NAICS 622) and nursing and residential care facilities (NAICS 623), we revise the previously published quarterly revenue estimates to reflect results of the 2004 Service Annual Survey and updated data provided by respondents. The remainder of this section describes the procedure we use to produce the revised estimates.

First, for companies that provide updated data for a prior quarter, we replace the previously reported data with the latest available data. Using the latest available data, we compute new quarterly revenue estimates for the fourth quarter of 2003 through the third quarter of 2005.

New quarterly revenue estimates are then adjusted to results of the 2004 Service Annual Survey estimates by multiplying them by a ratio. The numerator and denominator of each ratio are as follows:

- The numerator is the census-adjusted, annual revenue estimate for 2004 for employers obtained from the 2004 Service Annual Survey. See the 2004 Service Annual Survey report for a description of how these estimates are derived.
- The denominator is the sum of the four new quarterly revenue totals for 2004 obtained from the Quarterly Services Survey sample.

Note that each detailed industry has its own adjustment ratio and the same ratio is applied to all quarterly revenue estimates published from the fourth quarter of 2003 through the fourth quarter of 2005. We obtain adjusted estimates of quarterly revenue for aggregate industry levels by summing the adjusted estimates for the appropriate detail industries comprising the aggregate.

Because we designed the Quarterly Services Survey and Service Annual Survey samples using 1997 NAICS, the estimates used to form each ratio are on a 1997 NAICS basis. Consequently, the estimates shown in this report are on a 1997 NAICS basis.

For hospitals (NAICS 622) and nursing and residential care facilities (NAICS 623), we revise the previously published estimates to reflect updated data provided by respondents for any prior quarter for which we collected data from these industries. Because we only have data for the fourth quarter of 2004 for hospitals and nursing and residential care facilities, we do not adjust the quarterly revenue estimates for these industries to results of the 2004 Service Annual Survey. Instead, we will adjust the quarterly revenue estimates for these industries when results of the 2005 Service Annual Survey are available.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Survey Questionnaires

The Quarterly Services Survey questionnaires can be found on the Census Bureau's Web site at <www.census.gov/qss>.

Dollar Values

All dollar values presented are expressed in current dollars; that is, the estimates are not adjusted to a constant dollar series. Consequently, when comparing estimates to prior years, users also should consider price-level changes.

Confidentiality

Title 13 of the U.S. Code authorizes the Census Bureau to conduct censuses and surveys. Section 9 of the same Title requires that any information collected from the public under the authority of Title 13 be maintained as confidential. Section 214 of Title 13 and Sections 3559 and 3571 of Title 18 of the U.S. Code provide for the imposition of penalties of up to 5 years in prison and/or up to \$250,000 in fines for wrongful disclosure of confidential census information.